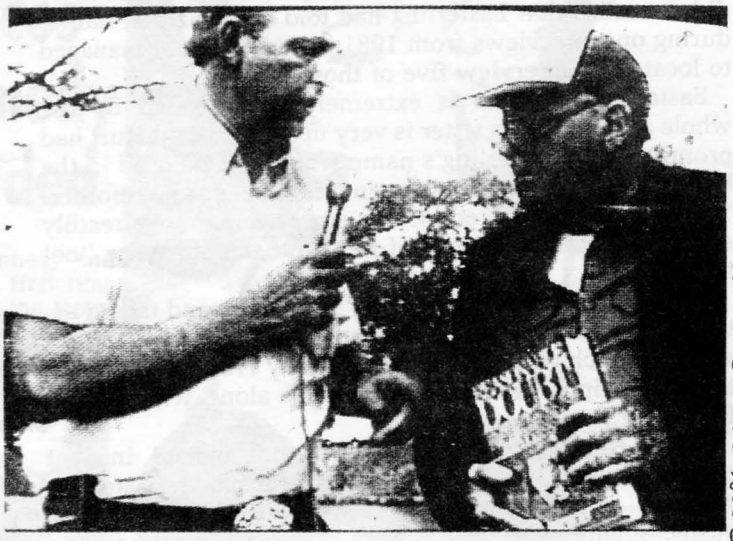
COVERUPS!

Number 27 Gary Mack, Editor and Publisher October 1986



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"Oswald was in the bus station the day of the assassination waiting for me to carry him to Mexico City, and (J. Edgar) Hoover told me not to show up (because the Cubans) were going to kill me and Oswald"—*Robert Easterling, right, to Johann Rush on the grounds of the state mental hospital in Whitfield, Mississippi, April 3, 1986.*

REASONABLE DOUBT ABOUT HENRY HURT

by Gary Mack

As related last issue, Hattiesburg, Mississippi television reporter/photographer Johann Rush has continued, on his own, to dig into the incredible story of Robert "Cowboy Bob" Easterling that he participated in a plot to kill President Kennedy. Easterling's "confession" is a prominent chapter in the book Reasonable Doubt by Reader's Digest writer Henry Hurt.

Evidence uncovered by Rush strikes directly at the credibility and honesty of both the book and author, for at least one event not only didn't happen, it couldn't have, and Hurt must have known it.

While Hurt admits he cannot vouch for the truthfulness of Robert Easterling, his acceptance of the story as something worth investigating is truly astonishing. Had the Warren Commission bought the Easterling "confession," early critics would have picked it clean before the ink dried; but today, some reviewers and researchers are saying Hurt's book is OK except for the Easterling chapter.

But the book is not OK. As you are about to learn, the author's integrity is now open to serious question; his analyses and presentations must, therefore, be suspect. Here, in edited form, is some of what Rush has found:

September 11, 1986

Dear Gary,

While Hurt makes it clear in Reasonable Doubt that Robert Easterling is from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and that Hurt came here often to interview Easterling, it is significant that Hurt failed to mention his attendance at the University of Mississippi from the fall of 1964 to early 1966 and his graduation with a BA degree in English. Nor did he mention that one of his first writing jobs was as a reporter for the Jackson Daily News (JDN) in Jackson, Mississippi, about 90 miles north of Hattiesburg. This information was only recently revealed when a few newspaper reviewers asked about his educational background.

Hurt also failed to point out that JDN reporters often take trips to the Hattiesburg area to cover news stories, and Easterling was living here at the time. It occurs to me that since Easterling has been telling his bizarre story for a long, long time, Hurt could have learned of it many years ago and just recently decided to use it; or, Easterling may have remembered Hurt's byline and chose to tell his story to a former Mississippian. It is intriguing that while Hurt claims to have never heard of Easterling prior to September 1981, he avoided mentioning the years when he and Cowboy Bob lived only 90 miles apart.

I have just recently located a former FBI agent, now retired here in Hattiesburg, who says he was asked by the Bureau as early as 1972 or '73 to investigate Easterling. This former agent, J. L. Martin, tells me that Easterling had telephoned the Justice Department and tried to tell his wild story to one of their attorneys. The information was turned over to the FBI and Martin was assigned to interview Easterling and question local law enforcement people about him. Martin concluded the story was a hoax and says he sent a teletype to the Bureau the next day saying so. In fact, Martin thinks he may be the FBI agent who told Easterling's sister her brother should be "in an asylum" (see page 350 of Reasonable Doubt).

Forrest County Sheriff Gene Walters, whose office is in Hattiesburg, has known Easterling since 1959 and says he has been telling tall tales at least since then. During his newspaper days, Hurt should have made numerous news contacts in both Hattiesburg and Mississippi; they, in turn, could have assisted in ascertaining the truthfulness of Easterling. No such sources are mentioned in Reasonable

Doubt with one important exception: Sheriff Walters told me that he warned Hurt the story was a hoax, but Hurt chose not to quote or even mention Walters by name.

Even more significant is the fact that J. L. Martin's son Terry was working in Sheriff Walter's office at the time Hurt was interviewing Easterling in Hattiesburg in 1981 and '82. It was Terry, who is thoroughly familiar with the Easterling hoax, who introduced me to his father.

Hurt's Easterling chapter is loaded with people whose names are either not given or changed, but Hurt probably didn't realize that Easterling had told *me* their real names during our interviews from 1981 through 1986. I managed to locate and interview five of those people.

Easterling's mother is extremely embarrassed by the whole affair, and his sister is very upset. She said Hurt had promised that Easterling's name would not be used in the book and that he would not even refer to her or her mother. The sister is a respected local businesswoman who readily agrees that many portions of her brother's story are "not true."

I also tracked down Easterling's first wife and talked extensively with her current husband. He calls the "confession" a bunch of "s---" and says Henry Hurt should be in the Mississippi state mental hospital along with Robert Easterling.

Other characters mentioned but not named in that chapter include a "company owner" (for whom Easterling worked in 1963) and a "wealthy New Orleans businessman" (who, according to Easterling, is supposed to be one of the conspirators.)

In 1963 Easterling worked as a diesel mechanic for an oil company on the west bank of the Mississippi, across from New Orleans. Henry Hurt's account of that employment, as told on page 352 of his book, came, according to footnote 17, from an "Interview with company owner, June 1982."

Hurt's book also tells of a "wealthy New Orleans businessman" whom Easterling says laundered a $100,000 payoff, delivered by Jack Ruby, from a Dallas oil man who supposedly bankrolled the assassination. Hurt's brief description of the "businessman's"background is on page 362 and comes, according to footnote 43, from an "Interview with businessman, June 1982."

The reader will likely think these are two different people, but in reality they are the same man! The company owner was also the businessman and he is J. D. Ward, who confirmed to me Easterling's employment and repeated his emphatic denial of any such payoff. It was Henry Hurt, not Robert Easterling, who decided to split this one man into two separate people. In my talks with Easterling he made no attempt to imply that the "company owner" and the "businessman" were different people. Why, then, did Hurt go to such extremes to hide the truth about Ward?

Mr. J. D. Ward was listed on page 556 of the 1963 New Orleans telephone directory, and his company was listed as "Ward Drilling Co" on that same page.

Ward also fired Easterling in 1963 for constantly being drunk on the job, but that fact is not mentioned in Reasonable Doubt. It is fair to wonder if the firing may have been a motive for Easterling to link his former boss to a sensational murder plot.

Hurt's lack of candor went even further when he told a complete falsehood about Ward. On page 369 Hurt claims that Ward's name was listed twice in the 1963 directory, once as himself and again with the designation Captain and an address at a Navy base near New Orleans. The apparent implication seems to be that Ward had some type of secret affiliation with the U. S. Navy.

Here is a copy of page 556 of the 1963 New Orleans

* Ward Drilling Co
2900 Whitney Av Gretna--367-5696
Ward E Eugene
813 Phosphor Av Metairie--833-0429
Ward Edis M Mrs 1934 Alabo--------WH 5-2873
Ward Edith 2803 Willow----------TW 9-3725
Ward Edw 8628 Leake Av----------861-9460
Ward Edw E 614 Poind Av----------949-3624
Ward Edw F 83 E Claiborne Sq Chalmette--271-2944
Ward Edwin A 3330 Short---------HU 8-4641
Ward Edwin R 2701 Ramsey Dr--------367-4657
Ward Elizabeth Mrs
1434 Seminole Av Metairie-VE 5-1109
Ward Ellis B 210 Hamltn Gretna--------366-1763
Ward Ellis B Jr 60 Creagan Av Gretna---361-8053
Ward Emile J Jr 4316 South Dr--------VE 3-0808
Ward Emile J Sr Mrs 661 Newman Av---VE 4-0352
Ward Erma Mrs 3236 Live Oak--------HU 2-5595
Ward Ernest 2406 S Saratoga--------891-9417
Ward Eugene L
2409 Athania Pkwy Metairie--833-8627
Ward F E 2505 Hibernia Av----------288-6905
Ward Frank Jr 3628 Marigny--------WH 7-7864
Ward Fred 5414 N Villere----------945-8306
Ward Gene C 8223½ Plum----------UN 1-3160
Ward Geo 1312 Madisn Metairie-------833-6773
Ward Grant 2349 Forstall----------945-1416
Ward Grant Jr 2038 Mandvl---------947-2689
Ward H N 2420 Gravier----------524-8835
Ward Harry 6409 Louisvl----------HU 8-1211
Ward Hazel 1820 Onzaga----------WH 4-6497
Ward Henry Mrs 1655 Shirley Dr-------361-5884
Ward Herbert M 4811 Laurel----------899-0346
Ward Hotel 749 St Chas Av----------523-0343
Ward Hubert 1412 ChoctawAvMetairie--834-0699
Ward Hubert Jr
1412 Choctaw Av Metairie--834-0699
Ward Hubert Jr 1712 David Dr Metairie--835-2749
* Ward J D 1036 Stumpf Blvd Gretna----367-3455
Ward J H Mrs 4203 S Galvz----------TW 1-1590

telephone directory showing the Ward listing. There is no Captain listed and Henry Hurt must have known it! To confirm that this is the correct page, anyone may contact Collin Hamer, Historical Librarian at the New Orleans Public Library, and ask him to look it up in their copy. One may also contact the Bell South telephone company archives in Birmingham, Alabama and ask for the same information.

Where did Hurt get the phony Captain story? A Captain Ward *did* appear in New Orleans many years later and *was* stationed at the Navy base in the late 1970's, but he was in no way related to Mr. Ward the businessman or to the Easterling "confession." After spending many hours of research at the New Orleans Public Library, I was not able to find both Wards listed in *any* New Orleans phone book at the same time.

Hurt apparently did not try to locate Captain Ward, but I did. He moved away from New Orleans in 1984 and was amazed at the entire story. He said he had never heard of Henry Hurt, Robert Easterling, or the other Ward. He added that he did not even move to New Orleans until 1975 and could not possibly have been listed in the 1963 New Orleans directory as Henry Hurt claims.

By 1982, Captain Ward was retired from the Navy and working as Director of the Greater Jefferson Port Commission located across the river from New Orleans. But by then, businessman Ward had moved away from the New Orleans area; however, he still maintained a small office on the west bank staffed with a single secretary.

On page 1130 of the 1982 issue of Polk's New Orleans Suburban City Directory—the one Hurt must have looked through during his 1982 research—are listings for "Ward Drilling Co" and J. D. Ward, port dir." A simple phone call to both offices would have told Hurt that both men were different people.

Mr. Ward told me that when Hurt found him in 1982, it was the first he had heard of Easterling's wild story about the $100,000 payoff. He said that at first he refused to grant Hurt an interview, but he got so mad at Easterling's allegations he finally consented. The interview was to be conducted at his attorney's office and he would record the conversation. Ward has just recently found the old tape and is storing it in a safe place.

He says that while Hurt was trying to get his permission to use his name in the book, Hurt assured him he could never get into any real trouble with law enforcement

authorities because Easterling's story was so outrageous it wouldn't stand up "one New York minute" in a court of law (he was quoting Hurt.) Ward denied permission to use his name and threatened to sue Hurt and the Reader's Digest if his name was published in connection with Easterling's ridiculous "confession."

I found Mr. Ward to be quite friendly and eager to talk about his past experiences with Easterling and Hurt. I am convinced that Ward had nothing to do with any conspiracy or plot, just as I am convinced that Captain Ward was not involved with Mr. Ward or Robert Easterling in any way.

Mr. Ward told me that Hurt asked him, in 1982, what names the J.D. initials stood for. He told Hurt they did not represent a first and middle name and even mentioned his former *Army* record during World War 2 which referred to him as "J (only) D (only) Ward!" Captain Ward told me his initials *do* stand for first and middle names and he once checked Navy records to be sure that he could use only the initials. Just as businessman Ward said there was no other J. D. Ward in the U. S. Army during World War 2, Captain Ward told me there was no other J. D. Ward in the U. S. Navy during his tenure!

So, in this open letter for publication, I say to Henry Hurt, if you are an honest journalist, produce the 1963 New Orleans telephone directory and prove both Wards are listed together. And tell why you hid the true identity of the "wealthy New Orleans businessman" and his relationship with Easterling. You have a lot of explaining to do.

Sincerely,

Johann Rush

Johann W. Rush
P.O. Box 563
Hattiesburg, MS 39403

July 28, 1986

Oswald lawsuit settled

D'N 8-6-86

Widow, author to get tapes of exhumation

By Walter Borges
Staff Writer of The News

A British author and the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald have reached an out-of-court settlement with two Rockwall men who they said videotaped and photographed the 1981 exhumation and autopsy of the body of the accused presidential assassin.

Michael H.B. Eddowes and Marina Oswald Porter filed suit against Hamp Hall and John Norman Cullins, both of Rockwall, in February 1984 to gain possession of photographs and videotapes taken by Hall at Mrs. Porter's request.

According to terms of the settlement reached Monday, Eddowes and Mrs. Porter will gain possession of the tapes and photos, but agreed to pay the two defendants $750, Hall's attorney, Don Stodghill of Rockwall, said Tuesday.

Mrs. Porter and Eddowes could not be reached for comment.

Mrs. Porter requested the exhumation and autopsy of the body from its grave in Fort Worth's Rose Hill Cemetery to counter Eddowes' theory that a Soviet spy was buried in Oswald's grave.

In his book, *The Oswald File*, Eddowes contended that Oswald, who had defected to the Soviet Union in 1959, was replaced by a Russian agent who shot President John F. Kennedy in 1963 and was later shot and killed by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

Eddowes paid for the exhumation and autopsy, which cost an estimated $12,000. In an additional effort to squelch speculation, Mrs. Porter hired Hall to videotape and photograph the procedures.

Hall ran a small newspaper in Rockwall, *The Lakeside News*, at the time, Stodghill said.

"There wasn't a written contract," Stodghill said Tuesday. "The question was whether he was making the videotapes for her. His contention was that he was allowed in as a member of the press."

Cullins' attorney, Ben Zollner, said his client had nothing to do with the videotaping of the exhumation. Zollner said he doesn't know why Cullins was named in the suit.

After the autopsy — which identified the body as that of her former husband — Mrs. Porter said she intended to destroy the tapes. She alleged in her lawsuit that the tapes were never turned over to her and contended that her privacy would be violated if the the videotapes were distributed by Hall and Cullins.

In depositions, Eddowes said he wanted to review the tapes to verify that there had been no problems with the exhumation and autopsy

Last-Ditch Hunt Appeal

EXCLUSIVE TO THE SPOTLIGHT

By Michael Collins Piper

Convicted Watergate felon E. Howard Hunt Jr. is making a last-ditch effort to win a libel judgment against Liberty Lobby, the former publisher of The SPOTLIGHT, even though a federal district court jury has already slapped down his complaint.

Hunt is asking the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit to overturn the "not guilty" verdict handed down by a six-member federal district court jury in Hunt's libel suit against Liberty Lobby. The verdict came on February 6, 1985 after a long and torturous route through the federal court system, which dragged out over a five-year period.

Hunt initially sued Liberty Lobby in November of 1980, claiming that he had been libeled by an article appearing in the August 14, 1978 issue of The SPOTLIGHT (which, at that time, was published by Liberty Lobby). The article, written by former CIA official Victor Marchetti, reported that the CIA was going to frame Hunt—an ex-CIA man himself—for involvement in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The case was initially lost by Liberty Lobby in a jury trial in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. A jury verdict for Hunt was returned in the amount of $100,000 compensatory damages and $550,000 punitive damages.

LOBBY WINS ROUND

Liberty Lobby appealed the judgment and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit remanded the case for a new trial in the district court. Liberty Lobby won this round, and now, some 18 months after the verdict, Hunt has filed for an appeal, claiming, among other things, that the district court erred in three procedural matters relating to the disposition of the case during the court proceedings.

According to Lois Petersen, secretary of Liberty Lobby's board of policy, Hunt may have been prodded to pursue the appeal by his close friend and former colleague in the CIA, William F. Buckley Jr., owner and editor of "National Review," a fortnightly Establishment journal.

NR once produced a muddled smear of Liberty Lobby in collaboration with Jack Anderson, the syndicated columnist.

Liberty Lobby itself had once sued Buckley's magazine for false, malicious and defamatory charges leveled at the populist institution in its pages but the case was dismissed—"unjustly," according to Mrs. Petersen. That suit is now being appealed by it in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.

Buckley's countersuit, however, was permitted to remain standing, thereby making Liberty Lobby (the initial plaintiff) the defendant in the suit the populist institution itself had initiated, an unlikely turn of events, to say the least.

Buckley ran up legal bills amounting to over $200,000 in his fruitless effort to pursue a libel victory against The SPOTLIGHT, suffering—like his friend Hunt—what can only be described as an embarrassing rebuke.

"Buckley was forced to endure two full days of tough grilling on the witness stand under the skilled questioning of Liberty Lobby counsel Mark Lane," said Mrs. Petersen. "He was clearly rattled by the experience and was certainly none too happy with the final results.

"Neither he nor his CIA pal Hunt was able to shut down The SPOTLIGHT—which, of course, was the real purpose of their lawsuits in the first place.

"After all, Liberty Lobby, through the egis of The SPOTLIGHT, had taken on the Establishment, including the CIA, time and time again," she noted.

"Now it looks as though these CIA characters are trying to take their charade one step further by trying to have our court victory dislodged," she said.

According to Mrs. Petersen, Liberty Lobby counsel Mark Lane is currently in the process of preparing a response to the Hunt appeal. "We have been very pleased with Mark Lane's work on our behalf in the past. We're hopeful and confident that he'll do a good job in the future."

E. HOWARD HUNT
. . . He's trying again.

Mrs. Petersen issued a special thanks to the members of Liberty Lobby and the readers of The SPOTLIGHT who provided Liberty Lobby much needed moral and financial support during the efforts to fend off Hunt's libel action. "Without our supporters, we could have never won in the first place," she said. ●

Dallas Times Herald August 7, 1986

Oswald's widow still troubled

By LORRAINE IANNELLO
Staff writer

Twenty-three years after authorities branded Lee Harvey Oswald the assassin of President John Kennedy, his widow is still haunted by questions about the events of Nov. 22, 1963.

Marina Oswald Porter says she is "more confused right now than I ever was" about Oswald's role in the infamous attack in Dealey Plaza. "When it first happened, I truly believed the Warren Commission report (naming Oswald as the sole assassin)," she said Wednesday in a telephone interview from her 17-acre farm in Rockwall.

But Porter says the years have made her wiser. "I used to think anybody who wore a three-piece suit had to be an honorable person," she said. "But I know now that's not true. People in three-piece suits lie too."

Porter, 45, was back in the news this week with the settlement of a lawsuit stemming from the 1981 autopsy on her late husband's body.

Marina Porter

She agreed to pay $750 for a videotape taken when her husband's body was exhumed to disprove a British author's conspiracy theory. Michael H.B. Eddowes had insisted that the body in Oswald's grave at Fort Worth's Rose Hill Cemetery was not that of Oswald, but of a Soviet spy. Although Porter did not believe Eddowes, she agreed to the exhumation to dispel any doubts, and an autopsy confirmed that the body was Oswald's.

The lawsuit marked one of the few times since 1963 that Porter — remembered by most Americans as a shy young Soviet immigrant overwhelmed by the tragic events of the time — has emerged from her carefully guarded cocoon of privacy. She has tried to lead an "ordinary life" on the Rockwall farm with her second husband, Ken Porter, a self-employed carpenter.

But she still struggles privately with the lingering questions about the assassination.

"Lots of people come with their theories, come with their speculation, but never put their money where their mouth is," Porter said. "I am grateful to Mr. Eddowes" because he paid the costs associated with the exhumation and the legal fees to recover the videotape."

Porter said her interest in the tape was heightened by the comments several years ago of a funeral director who prepared Oswald for burial. The Fort Worth funeral director claimed that Oswald had a scar in his skull that was not visible during the second autopsy, Porter said.

"Maybe it is a mistake, but I have to know for sure," Porter said.

For years after the president's death, Porter apologized for being Oswald's wife, accepted official accounts of what occurred and delved little into conspiracy theories.

Porter, a young mother at 22 when Kennedy was slain, recalled the pain of public criticism.

"For so many years I had to live under the shadow of my husband who did such a horrible thing," Porter said. "I apologized to people who didn't deserve it. Little by little, I'm gaining confidence in myself. After meeting so many scavengers in my life, I think, 'Hey, I'm not so bad.'"

Porter, who works once a week cleaning the home of a friend for "play money," previously worked as a file clerk at Richland Community College and as a sales clerk at Town East Mall. She and her husband enjoy more leisure time now since the youngest of their three children has moved out of the house.

(The missing skull scar was, of course, the observation of morticians Paul Groody and Alan Baumgardner to researcher Jack White nearly 5 years ago - the two prepared Oswald in 1963 and again in 1981. Marina has still not been given the photos and video tapes.)

The Dallas Morning News

July 24, 1986

■

If you call the Dallas County medical examiner's office and find out Dr. Charles Petty is on the scene, it's not what you think.

The scene is in London, where he is filming his role in *The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald*, a cable television movie scheduled to premiere Nov. 22. Petty plays, naturally, a medical examiner.

His administrative assistant, **Millie Odell**, says Petty will return to Dallas July 28. "They're filming through the 25th," Ms. Odell says. "But they moved them (Dr. and Mrs. Petty) out of their hotel in the heart of London to a hotel across the river where they could get to the studio and not be tied up in all that." All that was the royal wedding.

Petty previously has been involved in litigation over the accused assassin of **President John Kennedy**. In 1979 and 1980, Petty joined with British lawyer **Michael Eddowes**, who wrote *The Oswald File*, to seek exhumation of Oswald's remains from a Fort Worth cemetery. Eddowes claimed the dead man was a Russian agent who resembled Oswald. Petty said he just wanted to end speculation. The autopsy, performed in 1980, showed the body was that of Oswald.

FWST 7-17-86

Oswald to stand mock trial for TV

Associated Press

ODESSA — Lee Harvey Oswald, who was killed before he could be tried for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, will be the defendant in a televised mock trial being produced by a British company.

"You have got to realize that this event occurred almost 23 years ago. There are people who are married and have children who were not even alive at the time of the assassination. I just think it is good for history buffs," U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bunton, who will play the judge in the trial, told the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*.

Bunton said Tuesday that he did not expect the trial to be especially challenging and said the event would give history buffs a chance to take a second look at the 1963 assassination in Dallas.

London Weekend Television officials announced Wednesday that they are negotiating with witnesses who testified before the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination. Filming begins next week in London.

"I don't think it hurts us to look at events that created big changes in our history and try to make that determination (about the presidential assassination) in our minds," he told the Midland newspaper.

An official with the London television company said Oswald will be represented by an empty chair. Oswald never was tried, having been shot to death two days after his arrest while being moved from one jail to another.

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald was Kennedy's lone assassin.

Bunton, 61, said the prosecutor will be Vincent Bugliosi, the man who prosecuted Charles Manson. The defense attorney will be Gerry Spence of Jackson, Wyo., the judge said.

Bunton said the filmed event is a semidocumentary. He said the producers initially asked a federal appeals judge to preside at the trial, but when he could not make the trial because of previous committments, Bunton was asked to step in.

"Any judge would tell you it is a pleasure to try a case with good lawyers," said Bunton, who was appointed to the judgeship in 1979. "You do not have that nitpicking stuff that doesn't amount to a hill of beans."

He said the trial offers a good chance to reconsider a historic event.

Bunton said in 1963 there was no federal law applying to presidential assassinations and the case would have been tried in state court. But he said the producers decided to follow modern law making assassination a federal crime.

Officials said the program will be modeled on the company's recent mock trial of England's King Richard III, who is suspected of ordering the murders of his two young nephews in the 15th century.

Bunton, a cousin of the late President Lyndon Johnson, said filming begins July 21 in London, and the program will be broadcast in Britain and the United States on Nov. 22, the 23rd anniversary of Kennedy's death.

DTH 9-17-86

Oswald case goes to 'trial' on Showtime

By BOB BROCK
Broadcast editor

HISTORY MAY already have delivered its verdict on Lee Harvey Oswald, but that hasn't stopped cable television from trying to resolve the trial that never was.

"On Trial: Lee Harvey Oswald" will be shown on the pay cable station Showtime beginning Nov. 21. The four- to five-hour drama will conclude Nov. 22, the 23rd anniversary of the death in Dallas of President Kennedy.

Jurors from Dallas will hand up a verdict to a U.S. district judge from Midland in the British TV production that is cloaked in secrecy.

"For the first time ever," says a Showtime announcement of the program, "actual witnesses, along with evidence that convicted Lee Harvey Oswald in the opinion of the Warren Commission, will be subjected to the scrutiny of cross-examination and a jury of peers. . . ."

One of the witnesses is former Times Herald photographer Bob Jackson, whose photo of nightclub owner Jack Ruby killing Oswald won a Pulitzer Prize.

Jackson, now a staff photographer for the Colorado Springs (Colo.) Gazette-Telegraph, said in a phone interview that he and his wife spent eight days in London for "my short time on camera.

"I was pretty nervous and concentrated on answering the questions put to me by the attorneys," Jackson said.

Jackson said that he did not meet any other witnesses at the trial taping and signed a contract with the production company that he would not talk about any specifics of the program until it had been televised.

"I've already been offered a lot of money by the National Enquirer to tell them what I know about the trial. It's obvious they want to break a big story about everything."

Jackson declined to reveal the specifics of the Enquirer offer.

"On Trial" was taped in London in July and is being produced for Showtime by London Weekend Television, an independent British commercial channel.

U.S. District Judge Lucius Bunton of Midland presided at the "trial." Oswald was "prosecuted" by Vincent Bugliosi and "defended" by Gerry Spence. Bugliosi was chief prosecutor in the Manson family trials and wrote "Helter Skelter," a best seller based on them. Spence is a noted criminal defense attorney who represented the family of Karen Silkwood in its case against Kerr-McGee and is author of "Trial by Fire."

The twelve jurors from the Dal-

las area were selected by a marketing firm.

"I only glanced in the direction of the jury and didn't recognize anyone. I would guess that they were probably not around at the time of the assassination," Jackson said.

A publicist in Showtime's New York office told the Times Herald that the names of the jurors and other participants in the trial would not be made known until after the show had aired simultaneously in the U.S. and England. Showtime said the measure was being taken to protect the privacy of all involved.

And, to guard against a premature disclosure of the final "verdict" as to the hypothetical guilt or innocence of Oswald, the jurors turned in sealed ballots, explained the Showtime representative.

Approximately 21 hours of "trial" taping will be edited into the two-part show. For the U.S. cable showing, former NBC newsman Edwin Newman will serve as guide and commentator. Newman is scheduled to begin taping his portion of the show in Dallas Sept. 27.

The Showtime spokesman said that a press conference to officially launch a publicity campaign for "On Trial" was scheduled in Dallas Sept. 30.

A "trial" for Oswald is not an entirely fresh TV concept. In 1976 ABC telecast a four-hour docudrama, "The Trial of Lee Harvey Oswald," with actor John Pleshette playing Oswald. In that version of events, Oswald was shot and killed during the trial and no "verdict" was ever reached.

(Re-read the last paragraph of the AP story: the judge is a cousin of LBJ! So much for objectivity. Other witnesses include Ruth Paine, one of the TSBD employees under the window (Jr. Jarman or Harold Norman), and one of the County Jail inmates who witnessed the assassination.)

FWST 6-19-86

Watergate figure arrested

MIAMI — Watergate burglar Frank Sturgis and another man were arrested on charges of accepting stolen watches in what police alleged was a scheme to flimflam drug lords seeking reduced prison terms for hirelings.

Sturgis, 62, and Emilio G. Cotonat, 47, were arrested after accepting four Rolex watches worth nearly $12,000 from an undercover police officer posing as the head of a drug distribution organization.

Metro-Dade police spokesman Larry Chilson said Sturgis promised the undercover officer that he could arrange shorter prison terms because an unidentified federal agency owed him favors for helping smuggle agents out of Haiti.

The two Miami men were charged with one count each of accepting stolen goods. The undercover officer used watches instead of cash because defrauding drug dealers of their illegal profits isn't against the law, but accepting stolen property is.

FWST 9-15-86

Radio whiz McLendon dead at 65

From Staff and Wire Reports

DALLAS — Gordon B. McLendon, "The Old Scotchman" who captivated radio audiences with his studio re-creations of live sports events, is dead at 65 after a long illness.

Bart McLendon said his father died at 9:15 p.m. Sunday at his North Texas ranch. The elder McLendon had suffered from cancer of the esophagus.

In recent years, McLendon, a multimillionaire, had spent much of his time on his ranch 25 miles north of Dallas. On Dec. 5, he was shot in the face with a .38-caliber revolver. His son said the shooting occurred when Gordon McLendon was cleaning the gun.

Denton County Chief Deputy Dave Klundt said today the shooting last year was listed as self-inflicted. At the time of the accident, Gordon McLendon had just returned from Houston, where he was receiving chemotherapy treatments for cancer.

At McLendon's request, there will be no funeral, his son said.

Between 1947 and 1952, Gordon McLendon created and owned with his father, B.R. McLendon, the nationwide Liberty Broadcasting System, which claimed 458 radio affiliates.

Sitting in a studio, McLendon used ticker tape messages from major league baseball parks and a battery of sound effects to do simulated live, play-by-play broadcasts.

He also teamed with such celebrities as Dizzy Dean on a nationwide baseball "Game of the Day" and football "Game of the Week" carried by the network.

McLendon, a native of Paris in Northeast Texas, graduated from Yale University with a major in Oriental languages. ONI

He served in U.S. Naval Intelligence as a Japanese language officer during World War II.

After his discharge from the Navy, he attended Harvard Law School.

In 1943, he married Gay Noe, daughter of a Louisiana governor, James A. Noe.

After an initial start in the radio industry as owner-manger of KNET in Palestine, McLendon obtained a construction permit for KLIF in Dallas in 1947.

In the 1950s, McLendon began using a list of the most popular records — a technique first employed by Midwest radio entrepreneur Todd Storz — along with listener contests and colorful disc jockeys to create the top-40 format which became a staple of the radio industry for nearly three decades.

Among the radio stations owned by the McLendon family partnership were KABL-FM in San Francisco; KABL, Oakland, Calif.; WNUS-AM-FM, Chicago; WWWW, Detroit; WYSL-AM-FM, Buffalo, N.Y.; KOST, Los Angeles; WRIT, Milwaukee; KILT, Houston; KTSA, San Antonio; KELP, El Paso; KEEL, Shreveport, La.; and WAKY, Louisville, Ky.

His family sold the last of many broadcast properties in 1978 and invested the proceeds. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, McLendon became a recognized adviser on investments in precious metals and in 1981 wrote a book on the subject, *Get Really Rich in the Coming Super Metals Boom*.

Gordon B. McLendon

In 1964, McLendon made an unsuccessful foray into politics, losing to U.S. Sen. Ralph Yarborough in the Texas Democratic primary.

McLendon's family owned drive-in movie theaters, and McLendon, a friend of actor John Wayne, produced several movies. He was executive producer of the 1981 release *Victory*, directed by John Huston and starring Sylvester Stallone.

McLendon's 200-acre ranch was his home and the production facility for his early movies, including *The Killer Shrews*, *The Giant Gila Monster* and *My Dog Buddy*.

Survivors include a sister, Marie Wheeler and four children — Bart McLendon of Dallas, Jan Moss and Kristen McLendon of Newport Beach, Calif., and Dr. Anna Gray McLendon of Corpus Christi.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday at the Cielo Ranch at Lake Dallas, Bart McLendon said.

The family requested that donations be made to a favorite charity or to the Girls Club of Dallas.

DTH 9-15-86

D. Harold Byrd

Air patrol co-founder Byrd dies

By GARY SCHULTZ
Staff writer

Dallas philanthropist D. Harold Byrd, a co-founder of the Civil Air Patrol, who made his fortune in the East Texas oilfields and helped finance the exploration of Antarctica, died at his home on Sunday after a short illness. He was 86.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Sparkman-Hillcrest-Funeral Home in North Dallas. Services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday at the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas. Interment will be at Hillcrest cemetery.

Known to Civil Air Patrol acquaintances as Col. Byrd, David Harold Byrd was born on April 24, 1900, in Detroit, Texas, the youngest of eight children. On June 8, 1935, Byrd married Mattie Caruth, a descendant of a pioneer Dallas family. She died in 1972. Two years later, Byrd married Mavis Heath, widow of a former U.S. ambassador to Sweden.

Byrd attended Trinity University and the University of Texas at Austin, where he studied geology.

A gregarious man with an indominable sense of optimism, Byrd was a cousin and close friend of Antarctic explorer Adm. Richard E. Byrd, who died in 1957.

Byrd funded some of Adm. Byrd's Antarctic explorations during the 1920s and 1930s, and as a result, the Harold Byrd Mountains of Antarctica were named in his honor.

A geologist by training, Byrd used his oil profits to build a financial empire that included recreational facilities, manufacturing, real estate, commercial and industrial ventures and farming and ranching enterprises.

He was closely identified with the Civil Air Patrol, which he and a small group of civilians founded in 1941 in Washington, D.C.

"Gen. Byrd was a substantial friend of mine. We became firm friends through our mutual interest in aviation during its years of infancy," said retired Gen. James H. Doolittle, a former Commander of the Eighth Air Force in England during World War II.

After the Pearl Harbor attack, Byrd was appointed commander of the Texas wing of the Civil Air Patrol from 1941 to 1948 and was Southwest regional commander from 1948 to 1953.

Byrd also was co-founder and director of Dallas area aircraft companies including Temco Aircraft Corp. and Executive Flyers Inc. In 1957, he organized and became chairman of the board of Space Corp., based in Garland, which manufactured propulsion and ground test equipment for jet engines and aerospace ground support equipment.

Byrd is survived by his wife and two sons, D. Harold Byrd Jr. and Caruth Clark Byrd.

Mark August contributed to this story.

(Byrd bought the TSBD in 1939 and added the top 4 floors - he was still the owner in 1963. Suspect David Ferrie and Oswald were teacher and student, probably together, in the New Orleans CAP. An idol of Jack Ruby, McLendon's best friends included Hoover and Clint Murchison. Along with David Phillips, believed by some to have had a pre-assassination connection with Oswald as Maurice Bishop, McLendon proposed a weekly series "celebrating the exploits of the CIA" to the tv networks in 1980. The idea was shot down before it had a chance.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

FWST 9-24-64

Documents Contend Oswald Was Soviet KGB Agent

BY ROBERT S. ALLEN
and PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 — Students of history are going to find the Warren commission's report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy as fascinating for what it doesn't include as for what it contains.

Before sending their historic document to President Johnson this week, four of the commission's seven members voted secretly to send to the National Archives several documents charging that Lee Harvey Oswald, the suspected assassin, was a Soviet KGB agent.

Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican of Michigan, one of the four congressional members, sought unsuccessfully to include these papers, including a letter from Rep. John Pillion, Republican of New York, in the commission's official report to the President.

However, when Ford's motion to include these documents was offered, it was blocked when the other four commission members present at the meeting remained silent.

None of these members, including Chief Justice Earl Warren, chairman, would second the motion by Ford, who also serves on the House appropriations committee's CIA watchdog subcommittee.

Instead, the commission members led by Warren ordered the documents delivered to the archives, where the papers will be available — if they don't disappear — to researchers, future investigators and students of history.

• • •

THE OSWALD MYSTERY — Of the documents kept out of the report and sent to the archives, the (Sept. 10) letter from Pillion is one of the most explosive.

It flatly challenged the commission's findings that Oswald was not directed or instigated by any known or secret Communist agency, or that his Marxist-Leninist associations, beliefs, affiliations and allegiances were not related to his assassination of Kennedy.

"If this is a fairly accurate summary of the conclusion implied in the commission's report," Pillion wrote, "this report will have reached an incomplete, false, and unrealistic conclusion in failing to establish the true and ultimate motivating factors which caused Lee Oswald to assassinate President Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963."

Pillion, whose offer to testify was rejected by the commission, charged that the commission's conclusions were contrary to the evidence, stating:

"These findings are contrary to the known facts. They contradict our experience with, and our knowledge of, the secret terroristic operations of the Soviet Secret Police (KBG) and the thousands of subsidiary organizations throughout the world coordinated and concentrated to undermine, disrupt and destroy all non-Communist political order.

"To ignore the decisive influence of Communist ideology, Communist agents and associations over Lee Oswald in perpetrating this crime would constitute a gross deception upon the American public and world opinion."

RETRACING OSWALD'S TRACKS — Pillion traced Oswald's activities in the Soviet Union, his close association with the KGB, his marriage to the niece of a lieutenant colonel of the Soviet MVD, and his later visits to Mexico City, reporting:

"Immediately upon his arrival in the Soviet Union, Oswald voluntarily became associated with the Soviet Secret Police, known as the KGB. The KGB has the responsibility for the intelligence, infiltration and terroristic operations of the Soviet Union and its allied Communist network around the world.

"The recruiting and training of agents for sabotage, assassination, incitement of riots and all other forms of terror and violence is carried out by the KGB.

"Following Oswald's arrival in Moscow, the KGB arranged press conferences to publicize Oswald's defection. Shortly thereafter, the KGB provided a job for him in the sheet metal shop of a radio factory in Minsk. Oswald was not a skilled sheet metal worker. His job was a clerical job of 'checker.' This was a sham 'cover' job.

"Oswald was given a 5,000 ruble lump sum payment prior to going to Minsk. Thereafter, he received 700 rubles per month as wages and an additional 700 rubles per month from the KGB. The 700 ruble payment from the KGB was falsely represented as emanating from the Soviet Red Cross.

"The 1,400 rubles monthly income of Oswald was comparable to the salary of the general manager of the factory where he was allegedly employed in an unskilled labor capacity. The KGB provided Oswald with a scarce and comparatively luxurious apartment in Minsk for a period of more than two years.

"Oswald married a member of the Young Communist Party, known as KOMSOMOL. His wife, Marina was the niece of a lieutenant colonel in the MVD (now known as the KGB)."

• • •

THE EXIT VISA — "The grant of an exit visa to Oswald and to his wife, Marina, is a most extraordinary Soviet act. Oswald knew more than a month before that he and his wife would receive permission to leave the Soviet. There can be no question but that Oswald and Marina were considered by the KGB to be potential agents for either specific or future assignments.

"The KGB arranged to allow Oswald to engage in target practice and shooting during his more than two years stay in Minsk. The use of a rifle and practice privileges is absolutely forbidden to foreigners in the Soviet.

"From about June 1962, when Oswald returned to the U. S., until his arrest for the murder of President Kennedy on November 22, 1963, he was completely preoccupied with communism. His efforts to earn a living for his family were only incidental.

"Oswald subscribed to, and avidly read such Communist, Marx-Leninist revolutionary publications as the 'Militant' and the 'Daily Worker.'

"Oswald participated in the Communist pro-Castro movement in New Orleans. He made a number of trips to Mexico, where he consorted with Communists. Mexico City for many years has been the headquarters and center for Communist propaganda, subversion, and terrorism on the American hemispheres. Nothing is of greater significance regarding Oswald's movements than that he gravitated precisely to Mexico, not once, but on several occasions.

"It is immaterial whether Oswald was specifically assigned to assassinate President Kennedy. The fact remains that his entire Communist background and training had conditioned him to kill."

The other documents sent to the National Archives by the commission involve classified information relating to Oswald's contacts with CIA officials in the U. S. Embassy in Moscow.

Fort Worth Press, Sunday, February 23, 1964

Oswald's Brother Finishes Testimony

WASHINGTON. (UPI) — The special commission investigating the Kennedy assassination concluded hearing testimony Saturday from Robert L. Oswald, elder brother of the ex-Marine accused of the killing.

Allen Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency, was the only member of the commission present for the third day of testimony from the 28-year-old Oswald. Dulles and Oswald's attorney, William A. McKenzie, of Dallas, both charged that a published report of Oswald's purported secret testimony before the commission was false.

The New York Times story said Oswald told the commission he believed his brother had been trained as a Communist agent during a two-year period when the younger Oswald had defected to the Soviet Union.

"That was not in the testimony," Dulles said angrily. "I deny that statement was made."

Dulles said Oswald was "very forthright, very responsive to our questions" in relating facts of his younger brother's life and his own relationship with his brother.

Dulles also said he would discuss the newspaper story with Chief Justice Earl Warren and other commission members.

The commission plans to meet again Monday afternoon but have no indication whether further witnesses would be called immediately.

McKinzie read a lengthy statement to newsmen in which he charged the article quoting Oswald's alleged testimony was filled with "irresponsible inaccuracies." Oswald said nothing and only smiled when newsmen asked him questions.

(Does anyone have further info on Pillion's charges? Have the related documents ever been declassified? Was the Russian scare a real fear, or just a cover story to keep others quiet?

The Book That Shocked America Is Re-Released With Startling New Evidence

Startling new facts about the life and loves of Marilyn Monroe were revealed last year in Anthony Summers' best-seller "Goddess" — serialized exclusively in The ENQUIRER. The book has now been updated to include an additional chapter based on Summers' extensive research since its publication. In the following first installment from the new chapter — another ENQUIRER exclusive — Summers probes even further into the actress' affairs with John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert F. Kennedy. And he reveals for the first time anywhere evidence that could have destroyed the Kennedys' political careers — the incredible "Monroe Tapes."

Marilyn Monroe's Romances With John and Bobby Kennedy Were Secretly Tape-Recorded

By ANTHONY SUMMERS

Marilyn Monroe's romantic encounters with John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy were secretly tape-recorded — and for the first time ever, those involved in the bugging have revealed what was on the tapes.

John Danoff, a technician working for Hollywood detective Fred Otash, said he listened in as John Kennedy had a rendezvous with Marilyn on Thanksgiving 1961, in brother-in-law Peter Lawford's bugged California beach house.

In March 1962, just as Robert Kennedy began his entanglement with Marilyn, he too became the target of the bugging.

An insider told me that at least one of Marilyn's two phones at her California home were wired, and a hidden microphone transmitted from her bedroom to a tape recorder situated some distance away.

Otash and a new source — whose identity cannot be revealed here — admit that they listened to some of the tapes.

"There were more tapes made on Robert Kennedy and Monroe than there had been on Marilyn and the President," said detective Otash, who admits he provided personnel to help plant the bugs. The tapes contained the sounds of passion — and of quarrels, Otash told me. "On one tape I heard, she (Marilyn) was screaming, just screaming on and on at him (Robert Kennedy). Because, according to her, he had promised to get divorced and marry her. She kept bringing that up, and it led to fights."

A key man in the Monroe bugging operation was East Coast wiretap expert Bernard Spindel, who reportedly had been hired to "get the goods" on the Kennedys.

It is not entirely clear who hired him in this case, but his regular employer was Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa. He also worked for mobster Sam Giancana. Robert Kennedy, as U.S. Attorney General, had launched a war on organized crime, and the mob was desperate to get him.

Spindel's technician Earl Jaycox, who had earlier admitted only to seeing tapes, now admits that Spindel played him recordings of Marilyn's 1962 telephone conversations with both Kennedy brothers.

There were calls to the White House, and to Robert Kennedy at the Justice Department, Jaycox says. "Marilyn was almost always agitated on these calls ... she was acting like a betrayed woman."

Detective Otash says the tapes showed that Robert Kennedy visited Marilyn the afternoon of August 4, 1962 — only hours before she was found dead — and that the couple began a violent argument. It led to an outburst in which Marilyn said, in effect, "I feel passed around — like a piece of meat. You've lied to me. Get out of here, I'm tired. Leave me alone."

One of Otash's colleagues still active in surveillance operations says Marilyn even called the White House, trying to reach the President. The colleague quotes her as telling John Kennedy: "Get your brother away from me — he's just using me."

A completely new contact, traced in the past few months, offers the first "earwitness" testimony on what the bugging equipment picked up on the day Marilyn died.

In 1967, Spindel — who died in 1971 — played for the contact some 40 minutes of the "Monroe Tapes" recorded on the day of her death.

'GET your brother away from me," a distraught Monroe told JFK.

BUGGED: Wiretap expert Bernard Spindel (left) was hired to get the Kennedys. Hidden microphones in Monroe's phones and bedroom recorded her quarrels with Bobby.

The tapes reflected two visits by Robert Kennedy that day, the witness says. On the first visit there was a heated argument.

"Their voices grew louder and louder. Marilyn was demanding an explanation as to why Kennedy was not going to marry her.

"As they argued, the voices got shriller. Kennedy was screeching, high-pitched like an old lady ..."

Kennedy had learned that some form of bugging was taking place, the source claims. "He was asking again and again, 'Where is it?' — apparently referring to a microphone or tape recorder."

When Kennedy failed to find the bugging devices, he left. According to the contact, he later returned — this time accompanied by his brother-in-law Peter Lawford.

"Kennedy was saying words to the effect, 'We have to know. It's important to the family.'

"Apparently he was still looking for the recording device. Kennedy was again screeching, and Lawford was saying, 'Calm down, calm down ...' Monroe was screaming at them, ordering them out."

The next part of the recording was described as containing "thumping noises, then muffled, calming sounds. It sounded as though she was being put on the bed."

Marilyn Monroe was found dead of a barbiturate overdose later that night. And two of Bernard Spindel's associates, Faberge executive Richard Butterfield and his wife, say Spindel told them that Robert Kennedy was "with her when she died."

Next Week

Marilyn Dreams of Marrying a Kennedy

From the forthcoming book, GODDESS The Secret Lives of Marilyn Monroe by Anthony Summers Copyright © 1986 by Anthony Summers To be published by New American Library. Reprinted by permission of Curtis Brown Associates Ltd

METRO PAST

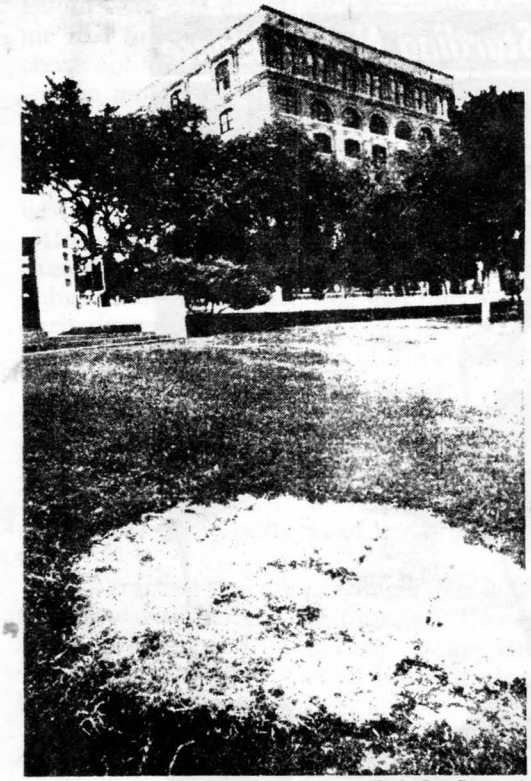
From The Dallas Morning News *files*

July 9, 1976

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Edwin A. Walker, well-publicized spokesman for extreme conservatism during the early 1960s, faces charges of public lewdness for allegedly making an advance to a police officer here last month, court records showed Thursday. Walker, 66, of 4011 Turtle Creek Blvd., is free on $200 bond on the June 23 lewdness charge, a misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of six months in jail and a $1,000 fine. Police reports alleged that Walker followed undercover park policeman R.J. Stevens into a public restroom in Cole Park, 4000 McKinney, the evening of June 23 and made a physical advance to the officer.

July 10, 1976

Jack Ruby was concerned that the name of a gunrunner for anti-Castro Cubans might come up during his 1964 trial here, *The Dallas News* has learned. The name of the gunrunner, Thomas Eli Davis Jr., didn't surface during the trial, but Ruby's attorney, Tom Howard, was prepared if it had, a friend of Howard's said. Howard, who was Ruby's first choice as an attorney, died in early 1965.



Eric Gay/Dallas Times Herald

DTH 5-28-86

Disputed trees leave grassy knoll

By COPE MOYERS
Staff writer

Ever since President John F. Kennedy's assassination in 1963, the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza has been the focus of controversy.

Was there a second gunman on that knoll who conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald to kill the President? The Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination, concluded no. But conspiracy theorists challenge that finding.

Lately, the knoll has become the subject of another challenge, related to the planting of four yaupon holly trees on what some regard as a historic spot.

At the request of the Dallas County Historical Commission, which argued the site should look as it did 23 years ago, the trees were quickly and quietly dug up and moved a few blocks away. Now at Union Station, they won't be in the way of the thousands of visitors who flock to the plaza each year to look and remember.

Only brown circular patches of dead sod mark the trees' brief stay on the grassy knoll.

"It's no big deal, but we just didn't think it was appropriate to have trees where there weren't any at the time," said Shirley Caldwell, chairman of the historical commission. "The grassy knoll is considered a historic artifact, part of the assassination story."

Theories that Oswald did not act alone were bolstered in 1979 after the House Assassinations Committee, studying police audio tapes made during the shooting, concluded that four shots were fired, one by a second gunman hiding on the grassy knoll.

However, that conclusion was later questioned by further government studies indicating that the tapes either did not record four shots or were recorded by a police radio that was not even in Dealey Plaza at the time.

"It's important for people to come and see that the grassy knoll is not what they think it is," Caldwell said. "It's not some kind of mountain where some gunman hid behind. Keeping it as it is allows people to come and see what really happened and make their own conclusions."

The trees were among about a dozen or so planted in Dealey Plaza by Treescape Dallas Inc., a nonprofit company that works with the city to plant trees in Dallas. With the approval of the Park Department, Dealey Plaza was one of several locations selected to receive trees, said Pat Eaton, executive director of the company.

Ron Dodd, assistant director for the Park and Recreation Department, said a "combination of people" thought Dealey Plaza was a suitable site for the trees, in part, because the additions would enhance Dallas' most popular tourist attraction.

But soon after the trees went in, Dodd said, the historical commission called.

"It had something to do with historical preservation," said Dodd, adding that the complaint centered on the four trees on the northern grassy knoll and not with the other trees planted around the remainder of the plaza. "We had no problem with that."

Caldwell said commission members first noticed the trees during a tour last November, when they glanced from the sixth-floor window of the former Texas School Book Depository, the window from which Oswald allegedly shot. The trees were removed shortly thereafter.

BRIEFS....Is a second motorcycle visible in the Dorman film of the JFK assassination scene? Expert Robert Groden disagrees with what Jack White and I found; further analyses will be made, but one thing does seem certain: now that the time of the film is known, it should be able to confirm or negate the location of the open microphone at the time of the shooting... ..There is a newly discovered recording of the motorcade that includes the shots, but they are apparently far too faint to be detected by current technology; still, a copy is being sent to Dr. James Barger for his evaluation - details next issue ....Dallas County District Attorney Henry Wade, still in office after 36 years, is retiring and was given a farewell dinner on 9-11; over 1300 guests attended, including Attorney General Ed Meese and Harvey "Bum" Bright, main $ contributor to the "Welcome Mr. Kennedy" ad, and new owner, after Clint Murchison, Jr, of the Dallas Cowboys....More than a few books are in the works. David Lifton recently completed a screenplay of Best Evidence for a possible movie, and is about half finished with a sequel....LBJ aide Liz Carpenter is writing her memoirs....a biography of John Connally is finally being compiled....Billie Sol Estes is considering a book on LBJ....Kennedy biographer John Davis is doing research for a book on organized crime....Local journalist/researcher Jim Marrs is now completing a general overview book of the JFK assassination....and Reasonable Doubt will likely be a paperback (hopefully labeled fiction)....If you're looking for books, try Tom Davis Books, P.O.Box 1107, Aptos, CA 95001-1107 and The President's Box Bookshop, P.O.Box 1255, Washington, DC 20013....Charles Harrelson's son Woody is the young bartender on NBC's Cheers; Woody's mother's maiden name was Oswald. Her family is from Ohio, while Lee's were from New Orleans. No connection, right?

COVERUPS! A normally bimonthly publication dedicated primarily to the responsible study of the JFK assassination and related events, including new developments and reprints of significant historical articles. Entire contents copyright 1986. Subscription price in the US and North America is $1 per issue, $1.25 elsewhere. All back issues are the same price. Within the US, personal checks must clear before anything is sent; elsewhere, only money orders for US funds are accepted. One or more free issues are given to contributors whose material is published. Your subscription will expire with the issue number next to your name/address.

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